

Please reject the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking #02-230, that proposes to severely limit the functionality of digital television sets. As proposed, this •broadcast flag• proposal would hamper innovation in digital televisions and other electronic equipment capable of receiving digital broadcasts. Please do not let the select group of industry insiders known as the •Broadcast Protection Discussion Group• get their way at the expense of consumer flexibility and choice.

While piracy is a valid concern, it is not the only issue that should be considered. Entertainment industry protections must be weighed against consumers• freedom to purchase and employ technology to obtain \"fair use\" of the product they have legally obtained. If enacted as written, the broadcast flag proposal would ignore these concerns and turn technological development over to an all-powerful subset of the entertainment industry.